

Mental Illness Commitments

418.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This procedure describes an officer's duties when a person is to be committed to a mental health unit pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150. The commitment of a person under § 5150 does not constitute an arrest. If an officer believes that a person falls within the provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150, he/she shall transport that person to the designated facility for evaluation and commitment.

418.2 AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150 when any person, as a result of mental disorder, is a danger to others, or to himself or herself, or gravely disabled, a peace officer, or other individual authorized by statute may, upon probable cause, take, or cause to be taken, the person into custody and place him or her in a facility designated by the county and approved by the State Department of Mental Health as a facility for 72-hour treatment and evaluation.

Such facility shall require an application in writing stating the circumstances under which the person's condition was called to the attention of the officer, or other individual authorized by statute has probable cause to believe that the person is, as a result of mental disorder, a danger to others, or to himself or herself, or gravely disabled. If the probable cause is based on the statement of a person other than the officer, or other individual authorized by statute, such person shall be informed that they may be liable in a civil action for intentionally giving a statement which he or she knows to be false.

418.3 OFFICER CONSIDERATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Any officer responding to or handling a call involving a suspected mentally disabled individual or an involuntary mental illness commitment should consider utilizing the following as time and circumstances reasonably permit:

- (a) Any available information that might assist in determining the cause and nature of the mental illness or developmental disability.
- (b) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques.
- (c) Language that is appropriate for interacting with a mentally disabled person.
- (d) If circumstances permit, alternatives to deadly force.
- (e) Any available community resources that can assist in dealing with a mentally disabled individual.

418.3.1 TRANSPORTATION

When transporting any individual for a "5150" commitment, the handling officer should have the Communications Center notify the receiving facility of the estimated time of arrival, the level of cooperation of the patient and whether or not any special medical care is needed.

Officers may transport patients in the patrol unit and shall secure them in accordance with the handcuffing policy. Violent patients or those that are medically unstable may be restrained and transported by ambulance and ambulance personnel. The officer will escort the patient into the facility and place that person in a designated treatment room as

Fullerton Police Department

Policy Manual

Mental Illness Commitments

directed by a staff member. As soon as a security staff member becomes available, he/she should relieve the officer and physically remain in the treatment room with the patient.

418.3.2 RESTRAINTS

If the patient is violent or potentially violent, the officer will notify the staff of this concern. The staff member in charge will have discretion as to whether soft-restraints will be used. If these restraints are desired, the officer will wait while they are being applied to help provide physical control of the patient, if needed.

418.3.3 MENTAL HEALTH DOCUMENTATION

The officer will complete an Application For 72-Hour Detention for Evaluation and Treatment form (MH-302) and provide it to the staff member assigned to that patient. The officer will retain a copy of the 72-hour evaluation for inclusion in the case report. The officer shall also provide a verbal summary to an emergency department staff member regarding the circumstances leading to the involuntary detention.

418.3.4 SECURING OF WEAPONS

If a receiving and secured facility prohibits weapons or if an extraordinary event occurs in the treatment facility and officers determine a need to secure their firearms, the firearm shall be secured in the appropriate gun locker at the facility or in the police unit.

418.4 MENTALLY ILL PERSON CHARGED WITH A CRIME

When practical, if a person has committed a crime, and they appear to be mentally ill, that person shall be booked at the Fullerton Police Department before being transported to a treatment facility. If the suspect has injuries or some other medical condition, he/she may be taken directly to the hospital with the approval of a supervisor. If a criminal charge is pending, the officer should take necessary steps to make sure the hospital staff contacts the Watch Commander, regarding the expected time of releasing the patient. The Watch Commander will evaluate the necessity of taking custody of the patient and take appropriate steps to return the patient into custody for pending criminal charges.

If the offense is of a serious nature, the suspect may be booked into the Orange County Jail as directed by the Watch Commander or a supervisor.

418.5 CONFISCATION OF FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS

Whenever a person has been detained or apprehended for examination pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code § 5150, the handling officer should seek to determine if the person owns or has access to any firearm or other deadly weapon. Any such firearm or other deadly weapon should be confiscated in a manner consistent with current search and seizure law (Welfare and Institutions Code § 8102(a)).

Officers are cautioned that a search warrant may be needed before entering a residence or other place to search unless lawful, warrantless entry has already been made (e.g., exigent circumstances, valid consent) (Penal Code § 1524).

For purposes of this section, deadly weapon means any weapon, the possession of which or carrying while concealed, is prohibited by Penal Code § 19100; 21310.

The officer taking custody of any firearm or other deadly weapon shall issue the individual possessing such weapon a receipt, fully describing the weapon (including any serial

Fullerton Police Department

Policy Manual

Mental Illness Commitments

number) and indicating the location where the weapon may be recovered, along with any applicable time limit for recovery (Penal Code § 33800).

The handling officer shall further advise the person of the below described procedure described below for the return of any firearm or other deadly weapon which has been confiscated (Welfare and Institutions Code § 8102(a)). For purposes of this section deadly weapon means any weapon that the possession of or carrying while concealed is prohibited by Penal Code § 19100; 21310.

418.5.1 RETURN OF CONFISCATED FIREARMS AND WEAPONS

- (a) Whenever the handling officer has cause to believe that the future return of any confiscated weapon(s) might endanger the person or others, the officer shall detail those facts and circumstances in a report. The report shall be forwarded to the Detective Bureau which shall be responsible for initiating a petition to the superior court for a hearing in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code § 8102(b), to determine whether or not the weapon(s) will be returned.
- (b) The petition to the Superior Court shall be initiated within 30 days of the release of the individual from whom such weapon(s) have been confiscated unless the Department makes an ex parte application to the court to extend the time to file such a petition, up to a maximum of 60 days. At the time any such petition is initiated, the Department shall send written notice to the individual informing him or her of the right to a hearing on the issue and that he or she has 30 days to confirm with the court clerk any desire for a hearing and that the failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of any confiscated weapon(s).
- (c) If no petition is initiated within the above period, the Department shall make the weapon(s) available for return in accordance with subsection (d) below. If the person does not confirm a desire for a hearing within the prescribed 30 days, the Department may file a petition for an order of default.
- (d) Under no circumstances shall any firearm be returned to any individual unless and until such person presents valid identification and written notification from the California Department of Justice which conforms to the provisions of Penal Code § 33865.
- (e) In no case in which a firearm or other deadly weapon is not retained as evidence shall the Department be required to retain such firearms or other deadly weapon longer than 180 days after notice has been provided to the owner that such firearm or other deadly weapon is available for return. At the expiration of such period, the firearm or other deadly weapon may be processed for disposal in accordance with applicable law (Penal Code § 33875).

418.6 TRAINING

As a part of advanced officer training programs, this agency will endeavor to include POST approved training on interaction with mentally disabled persons as provided by Penal Code § 13515.25.

418.7 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Each facility has varying degrees of services and not all will have available security personnel. However, most treatment facilities will attempt to relieve the transporting officer quickly.

Fullerton Police Department

Policy Manual

Mental Illness Commitments

The on-duty Emergency Department physician will assess the patient and coordinate further treatment with the facilities' Psychiatric Unit. If the facility does not have an available psychiatric treatment the officer should coordinate with the staff to arrange for an inter-hospital transfer so the officer would not be required to remain with the patient.

If the officer feels that he/she is being unnecessarily delayed at the facility a staff supervisor should be contacted to resolve the delay. If the officer and the staff are unable to resolve the situation a field supervisor shall be notified regarding the circumstances. Specific difficulties requiring administrative action should be documented and forwarded to the Professional Standards Bureau Sergeants for further investigation.

Entry level

TRAINING AND TESTING
SPECIFICATIONS FOR LEARNING DOMAIN #37
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

July 1, 2008

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- LEARNING NEED
- Peace officers must understand that there are laws protecting the rights of people with disabilities.
- LEARNING OBJECTIVES
- A. State the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- B. Recognize the role of peace officers when interacting with a person with a disability
- C. Explain state and local resources available to people with disabilities
- LEARNING NEED
- In order to make appropriate decisions regarding intervention strategies, peace officers must be able to recognize, based on behavioral cues and other indicators, people with developmental disabilities.
- A. State the intent of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Developmental Disabilities Service Act (*Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 4500 et seq.*)
- B. Define the term developmental disability
- C. Recognize general behavioral indicators associated with all developmental disabilities
- D. Recognize behavioral indicators specifically associated with the following developmental disabilities:

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III.

1. Mental retardation
2. Cerebral Palsy
3. Autism
4. Epilepsy

E. Recognize appropriate peace officer actions during field contacts with people with the following developmental disabilities:

1. Mental retardation
2. Cerebral Palsy
3. Autism
4. Epilepsy

LEARNING NEED

In order to make appropriate decisions and serve those with physical disabilities, peace officers must be able to recognize indicators of people affected by physical disabilities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A. Discuss the types of neurologically based disorders, including:

1. Acquired
2. Traumatic

B. List the types of mobility assistance equipment and devices

C. Recognize behavioral or other indicators that may lead an officer to identify a person as being:

1. Blind or visually impaired
2. Deaf or hearing impaired

D. Recognize appropriate peace officer actions during field contacts with people who are:

1. Blind or visually impaired

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LEARNING NEED

- E. Identify methods an officer can use to communicate with a person who is deaf or hearing impaired
- F. Discuss additional laws that protect the rights of people with physical disabilities, including:
1. Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504
 2. Right of way (Vehicle Code Section 21963)
 3. White Cane Law (Civil Code Section 54.4)
 4. Service Animals (Penal Code Section 365.5 et. seq.)
- Peace Officers must become familiar with the causes and nature of mental illness in order to determine if an individual is gravely disabled or dangerous.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. Define the term mental illness
- B. List the categories of mental illness:
1. Thought disorders
 2. Mood disorders including depression (i.e., postpartum psychosis)
- C. Recognize behavioral indicators that may be generally associated with people affected by mental illness
- D. Recognize indicators officers may use to help determine if a person affected by a mental illness is a danger to self or others
- E. Recognize appropriate tactical actions when responding to a call involving a person with a mental illness

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V.

- F. Explain the intent of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (*Welfare and Institutions Code section 5150*)
- G. Recognize behavioral indicators that may lead an officer to believe a person may be a danger:
1. to others
2. to self
- H. Differentiate between courses of action for peace officers when dealing with a person who appears to be affected by a mental illness and is:
1. Dangerous or gravely disabled, or
2. Not dangerous or gravely disabled
- I. Recognize peace officer actions when a person affected by mental illness does not meet detention under the *Welfare and Institutions Code section 5150*
- REQUIRED TESTS
- A. The POST-Constructed Knowledge Test on the learning objectives in Domain #37.
- B. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive Mid-Course Proficiency Test.
- C. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive End-of-Course Proficiency Test.
- D. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive Module III End-of-Course Proficiency Test.
- E. The POST-Constructed Comprehensive Module II End-of-Course Proficiency Test.
- F. The POST-Constructed PC 832 Arrest Written Test.

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IX.

VIII.

VII.

HOURLY REQUIREMENTS

Students shall be provided with a minimum number of instructional hours on persons with disabilities.

ORIGINATION DATE

January 1, 2001

REVISION DATE

January 1, 2002

January 1, 2004

August 15, 2004

September 15, 2004

January 1, 2006

July 1, 2008



2012 Schedule

**CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT -
UNDERSTANDING MENTAL ILLNESS ON THE STREET**

Cost: FREE

Hours: 16 hours total; 2 Days: 0800 - 1700
P.O.S.T.: Plan IV - 3670-20801 (includes 2 hrs. of Tactical Communication)
S.T.C.: 4775-055451

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|---------------|--|
| Jan 4-5/12 | OCSD Katella Training Facility, 1900 W. Katella, Orange, CA 92867 (W/Th) |
| Jan 18-19/12 | OCSD Katella (W/Th) |
| Feb. 15-16/12 | OCSD Katella (W/Th) |
| Mar 7-8/12 | OCSD Katella (W/Th) |
| Mar 21-22/12 | OCSD Katella (W/Th) |
| Apr 17-18/12 | OCSD Katella (Tu/W) |
| May 9-10/12 | OCSD Katella (W/Th) |
| May 23-24/12 | OCSD Katella (W/Th) |
| June 13-14/12 | OCSD Katella (W/Th) |

This special course is designed to help law enforcement officers:

- ❖ Identify signs and symptoms of mental illness
- ❖ Recognize various development disabilities
- ❖ Increase awareness and knowledge of community services available
- ❖ Improve crisis intervention skills/communication techniques
- ❖ Demonstrate effective officer safety and public safety techniques
- ❖ Increase awareness of resources
- ❖ Identify mental illness procedures within the judicial system and the health care system

Presenters Include a panel of Mental Health Professionals

For reservations please contact the Program Coordinator:

Marcia Gordon
email: MarciaGordonGWC@aol.com
Or call: (562)760-3280





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| Investigation |
| Justice System and Detentions |
| Law and Legal Issues |
| Law Enforcement Profession and Ethics |
| Major Occurrences |
| Narcotics and Drugs |
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| Patrol |
| Supervision and Management |
| Terrorism |
| Traffic and Vehicle Operations |

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Recognizing Mental Illness: A Proactive Approach

063

Focuses on the relationship between law enforcement and the mental health community and provides instruction on how to handle situations involving persons with psychological disabilities. Highlights different types and causes of mental illness, including schizophrenia, disorganized speech, anxiety illness, mood disorders, major depression, personality disorders, brain damage, dementia, delirium, and Alzheimers. Presents effective tactics used by peace officers when approaching and communicating with persons suffering mental illness and profiles successful partnerships between law enforcement and mental health professionals.

Date Produced: 2000

CPT Hours/Credits: 2 Hours

Length: 2 Hours

Multimedia Number: 063

Reference Guide: Yes

Price(each):
\$99.00

You must login to order this video.

MS#10003

Hourly Distribution

Crisis Intervention Team Training 8 hours

OCT 13, 14, 18, 2011

Lesson 1.0 – Introduction

- 1.1 Introduction and training goals 0800-0815
- 1.2 Community and Law Enforcement Expectations and Standards 0815-0835
- 1.3 Pre-Test 0835-0850

Break

0850-0900

Lesson 2.0- Mental Illness Overview

0900-0950

Break

0950-1000

Lesson 2.1 – Thought Disorders – Schizophrenia

1000-1030

Lesson 2.2 – Mood Disorders – Bi-Polar Disorder

1030-1100

Break

1100-1110

Lesson 2.3 – Mood Disorders – Major Depression

1110-1140

Lesson 2.4 – Treatment Options (Medications)

1140-1200

Lunch

1200-1300

Lesson 3.0 – Field Contacts with the Mentally Ill

1300-1350

Break

1350-1400

Lesson 3.1 – De-Escalation Techniques

1400-1450

Break

1450-1500

Lesson 3.2 – Field Tactics and Officer Safety

1500-1550

Break

1550-1600

Lesson 4.0 – Review and Post-Test

1600-1650

Expanded Course Outline for Crisis Intervention Team Training

Lesson 1- Introduction

1.1 Introduction

- A. Introduction of course facilitators and participants
- B. Crisis Intervention Training objectives
 - 1. Improve understanding, judgment, competence and safety
 - 2. Improve communication skills
 - 3. Improve ability to identify and appropriately respond to individuals with mental health and/or developmental disabilities.
 - 4. Increase awareness of local resources

1.2 Why this training is important

- 1. Officers will encounter someone with these disabilities
- 2. Enhance safety of officers and community members
- 3. Improve management of high risk encounters
- 4. Improve ability to access resources

1.3 Pre-test

Lesson 2-Mental Illness Overview

- A. Defined as a medical (organic) illness or disease
- B. Characteristics of a mental illness
- C. Disturbances of mood
 - 1. Emotional “flatness”
 - 2. Inappropriate emotion
 - 3. Fluctuating moods
 - 4. Intensity of emotions
- D. Disturbance in thought
 - 1. Disorganized thought patterns
 - 2. Hallucinations
 - 3. Delusional thinking

Lesson 2.1- Schizophrenia

- A. Definition of schizophrenia
- B. Symptoms

1. Delusions
2. Hallucinations
3. Paranoia - Concrete and disorganized thinking patterns

Lesson 2.2 – Bi Polar Disorder

A. Bipolar Disorder

B. Definition

C. Symptoms

1. Elevated Mood
2. Agitation
3. Reduced need for sleep
4. Poor judgment
5. Distractibility
6. Mood Swings
7. Pressured speech

Lesson 2.3 - Major Depression

A. Definition

B. Symptoms of depression

1. Emotional
 - a. Sadness
 - b. Hopelessness, helplessness
 - c. Sense of worthlessness
 - d. Irritability at times, especially in children
2. Cognitive
 - a. Poor concentration
 - b. Difficulty with memory

3. Behavioral

- a. Loss of interest in pleasurable activities
- b. Sleep disturbance
- c. Change in appetite

Lesson 2.4 - Treatment options for Mental Illness

A. Medications

1. Anti-anxiety medications
2. Anti-depressants
3. Anti-psychotics
4. Seizure medications

- 5. Anti-mania medications
- B. Medication Side Effects
 - 1. Permanent side effects
 - 2. Weight gain/loss
 - 3. Loss of libido
 - 4. Tardive dyskinesia (involuntary movements, tics, grimaces etc.)
 - 5. Changes in personality (e.g. emotional reception/expression, etc.)

Lesson 3.0 - Field Contacts with the Mentally Ill

- A. Have Nots - Poor & mostly homeless
- B. Can Nots - Inability to conform due to mental illness
- C. Will Nots - Refuse, per personal lifestyle choice (e.g. personality disorders), to conform to standards/demands
- D. Field observations of behaviors and symptoms
 - 1. Consciousness
 - 2. Activity
 - 3. Speech
 - 4. Thought Process

Lesson 3.1 – Officer Safety

- A. Why do we do this training?
- B. Avoid injuries to officers and consumers
- C. Avoid stigmatizing persons with Mental Illness
- D. Provide Suicide Assessment
- E. Homeless
 - 1. One third of all homeless have a serious mental illness
- F. What you don't know (or consider) can hurt you
 - 1. Demeanor
 - 2. Environment
 - 3. Awareness of you as an officer
 - 4. Danger Signs
- G. Using correct tactics and making the right decisions can save a persons life
- H. Thirty-Second Assessment

1. Do they know you are the police
2. Can they see (or visually focus on) you...
3. Can they hear you (are they understanding or processing verbal questions/commands)
4. Are they able to answer simple questions
5. Are they able to follow simple commands or directions

I. Primary Violence Predictors

1. History of past violence
2. Drug and alcohol abuse
3. Serious mentally ill person who has become combative

J. Tactical Considerations before arrival

1. Information from the reporting party
2. Available weapons
3. Location of the subject
4. Previous calls for service
5. Does the subject know the police are coming
6. Is the subject under self control

K. Tactical Considerations on arrival

- a. Assign officer responsibilities
- b. Assign back-up officer
- c. Control the scene
- d. Communicate with family members as appropriate

L. Prepare for Contingencies

- a. If it's working, keep doing it
- b. Is Taser your only weapon?

Lesson 3.2 – De-escalation techniques (TACT)

- A. Time spent dealing with persons with Disabilities. Disconnect in training versus actual calls for service

B. Tone

1. It's not what you say, it's how you say it
2. Calm, firm demeanor
3. Negative remarks or threats by consumers
4. Non-Confrontational
5. Avoid impatience and/or condescension
6. Patient, polite, truthful
7. Encouragement

C. Atmosphere

1. Reduce Distractions

2. Calm the scene, lower radios, disruptive people
3. Personal space is critical. Do not crowd. Increase space as needed.
4. Avoid touching if possible.

D. Communication

1. Use first names if possible
2. One officer to speak
3. Use calm, slow, firm voice
4. Use simple directions
5. Repeat your commands/requests as many times as necessary
6. Make sure the subject understands your directions
7. Build a sense of security

E. Problem Communication

1. Non-Responsive? Do not assume (or rush to act on the worst)...
2. Make sure to use 30-second evaluation
3. Do not argue with expressed delusions
4. Help subject to feel safe
5. Help subject to focus on your voice
6. Ask subject what the voices are saying

F. Time

1. Be willing to take the time needed to safely complete call
2. Time is needed to process information
3. Goal is Voluntary Compliance
4. Allows de-escalation and venting
5. Rushing can lead to unplanned and violent response
6. Allows officer to disengage, reassess, make plan

Lesson 4.0 – Post-Test and Graduation

Homeless Persons

464.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that personnel understand the needs and rights of the homeless and to establish procedures to guide officers during all contacts with the homeless, whether consensual or for enforcement purposes. The Fullerton Police Department recognizes that members of the homeless community are often in need of special protection and services. The Fullerton Police Department will address these needs in balance with the overall mission of this department. Therefore, officers will consider the following when serving the homeless community.

464.1.1 POLICY

It is the policy of the Fullerton Police Department to provide law enforcement services to all members of the community, while protecting the rights, dignity and private property of the homeless. Homelessness is not a crime and members of this department will not use homelessness solely as a basis for detention or law enforcement action.

464.2 HOMELESS COMMUNITY LIAISON

The Chief of Police will designate a member of this department to act as the Homeless Liaison Officer. The responsibilities of the Homeless Liaison Officer include the following:

- (a) Maintain and make available to all department employees a list of assistance programs and other resources that are available to the homeless.
- (b) Meet with social services and representatives of other organizations that render assistance to the homeless.
- (c) Maintain a list of the areas within and near this jurisdiction that are used as frequent homeless encampments.
- (d) Remain abreast of laws dealing with the removal and/or destruction of the personal property of the homeless. This will include the following:
 1. Proper posting of notices of trespass and clean-up operations.
 2. Proper retention of property after clean-up, to include procedures for owners to reclaim their property in accordance with Policy § 804 and other established procedures.
- (e) Be present during any clean-up operation conducted by this department involving the removal of personal property of the homeless to ensure that the rights of the homeless are not violated.
- (f) Be present during any clean-up operation conducted by this department involving the removal of personal property of the homeless to ensure that the rights of the homeless are not violated.

464.3 FIELD CONTACTS

Officers are encouraged to contact the homeless for purposes of rendering aid, support and for community-oriented policing purposes. Nothing in this policy is meant to dissuade an officer from taking reasonable enforcement action when facts support a reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. However, when encountering a homeless person who has committed a non-violent misdemeanor and continued freedom is not likely to result in a

Fullerton Police Department

Policy Manual

Homeless Persons

continuation of the offense or a breach of the peace, officers are encouraged to consider long-term solutions to problems that may relate to the homeless, such as shelter referrals and counseling in lieu of physical arrest.

Officers should provide homeless persons with resource and assistance information whenever it is reasonably apparent that such services may be appropriate.

464.3.1 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Homeless members of the community will receive the same level and quality of service provided to other members of the community. The fact that a victim or witness is homeless can, however, require special considerations for a successful investigation and prosecution. Officers should consider the following when handling investigations involving homeless victims, witnesses or suspects:

- (a) Document alternate contact information. This may include obtaining addresses and phone numbers of relatives and friends.
- (b) Document places the homeless person may frequent.
- (c) Provide homeless victims with victim/witness resources when appropriate.
- (d) Obtain statements from all available witnesses in the event that a homeless victim is unavailable for a court appearance.
- (e) Consider whether the person may be a dependent adult or elder, and if so, proceed in accordance with Policy § 326.
- (f) Arrange for transportation for investigation-related matters, such as medical exams and court appearances.
- (g) Consider whether a crime should be reported and submitted for prosecution, even when a homeless victim indicates that he/she does not desire prosecution.

464.4 PERSONAL PROPERTY

The personal property of homeless persons must not be treated differently than the property of other members of the public. Officers should use reasonable care when handling, collecting and retaining the personal property of homeless persons and should not destroy or discard the personal property of a homeless person.

When a homeless person is arrested or otherwise removed from a public place, officers should make reasonable accommodations to permit the person to lawfully secure his/her personal property. Otherwise, the personal property should be collected for safekeeping. If the arrestee has more personal property than can reasonably be collected and transported by the officer, a supervisor should be consulted. The property should be photographed and measures should be taken to remove or secure the property. It will be the supervisor's responsibility to coordinate the removal and safekeeping of the property.

Officers should not conduct or assist in clean-up operations of belongings that reasonably appear to be the property of homeless persons without the prior authorization of a supervisor or the department Homeless Liaison Officer. When practicable, requests by the public for clean-up of a homeless encampment should be referred to the Homeless Liaison Officer.

Officers who encounter unattended encampments, bedding or other personal property in public areas that reasonably appears to belong to a homeless person should not remove or destroy such property and should inform the department Homeless Liaison Officer if such property appears to involve a trespass, blight to the community or is the subject of a

Fullerton Police Department

Policy Manual

Homeless Persons

complaint. It will be the responsibility of the Homeless Liaison Officer to address the matter in a timely fashion.

464.5 MENTAL ILLNESS AND MENTAL IMPAIRMENT

Some homeless persons may suffer from a mental illness or a mental impairment. Officers shall not detain a homeless person under a mental illness commitment unless facts and circumstances warrant such a detention (See Policy § 418).

When a mental illness hold is not warranted, the contacting officer should provide the homeless person with contact information for mental health assistance as appropriate. In these circumstances, officers may provide transportation to a mental health specialist if requested by the person and approved by a supervisor.

464.6 ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

Sometimes homeless encampments can impact the ecology and natural resources of the community and may involve criminal offenses beyond mere littering. Officers are encouraged to notify other appropriate agencies or departments when a significant impact to the environment has or is likely to occur. Significant impacts to the environment may warrant a crime report, investigation, supporting photographs and supervisor notification.